

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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KIRK CALDWELL MAYOR



LOUIS M. KEALOHA CHIEF

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OUR REFERENCE

August 25, 2014

CITY COUNCIL HONOLULU, HAWAII

The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Chair and Members
Committee on Public Safety and
Economic Development
Honolulu City Council
530 South King Street, Room 202
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Fukunaga and Councilmembers:

SUBJECT: Bill 51-proposed CD1, "Relating to Products for Smoking"

Thank you for your letter dated August 25, 2014, asking for our comments on Bill 51 and a proposed CD1 introduced by Councilmember Stanley Chang, which proposes increasing the smoking age from 18 to 21 years old.

Major Janet Crotteau of the Honolulu Police Department's (HPD) Legislative Liaison Office conducted research on the bill. We believe contacting the Department of Health is not necessary as this would be a law enforcement issue rather than a health issue for the HPD. We will determine enforcement procedures should the bill pass and enforce it fairly as we do all others.

Although we are planning to monitor this bill, we recommend deletion of the "grandfather clause." The clause will create a double standard among similarly aged persons, and law enforcement and/or retailers may make unintentional errors as to the person's ability to buy tobacco or tobacco-like products such as e-cigarettes.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to make comments on Bill 51-proposed CD1, which increases the legal smoking age from 18 to 21 years old.

Sincerely,

Chief of Police

APPROVED:

Ember Lee Shinn Managing Director

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